

**Recovery of Dues from Government Hospitals and Police Stations**

**†190. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:  
SHRI RAMASHANKER KAUSHIK:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether huge amount of telephone bills are outstanding against Government hospitals and police stations throughout the country; if so, the amount outstanding against hospitals and police stations separately;
- (b) whether Government disconnects the telephone connection and takes legal action also against general public in order to recover the outstanding amount;
- (c) what action would be taken by Government to recover the entire outstanding amount from hospitals and police stations; and
- (d) by when the amount would be recovered; if not, what decision would be taken by Government regarding the outstanding amount?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):** (a) to (d) The information has been called for and the same will be placed on the Table of the House.

**Telephones in Villages**

**†191. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:  
DR. D. MASTHAN:**

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the responsibility of giving telephone connections in the villages of the country was given to private and public sectors during the last few years;
- (b) if so, the number of villages in the country till March, 2000 where the work of giving telephone connections under this responsibility has been completed by private and public sectors; and
- (c) the target given to both the sectors in terms of number of villages for giving telephone connections during the said period?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
(SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR):** (a) Yes, Sir.

**(b) Out of 6,07,491 villages in the country, 3,74,605 villages have been connected.**

\*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.